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P R 181430Z MAR 69
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3405

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0708

SUBJECT: "CURRENT REACTION"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE 7/15/80
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

1. EXPRESSEN (LIBERAL) EDITORIAL "NIXON'S ROCKET WALL CHALLENGES THE RUSSIANS" COMMENTS:

2. PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO GIVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A WATERED-DOWN ROCKET WALL AS A SHIELD PRIMARILY FOR U.S. ROCKET BASES, AROUSES EVIL FOREBODINGS THAT THE WORLD POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS THEREBY DETERIORATED FURTHER. FOR HOW CAN THE RUSSIANS INTERPRET THIS NEW STEP TOWARDS ESCALATION OF ARMAMENT EXCEPT AS A CHALLENGE WHICH THEY MUST MEET?

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN A SITUATION WHERE THE RUSSIANS' MILITARY ATTENTION IS DIRECTED MORE TO THE EAST THAN TO THE WEST - THAT IS TO SAY, TOWARDS CHINA - NIXON'S DECISION TO GIVE IN TO THE DEMANDS OF THE GENERALS AND THE ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE ROBOT DEFENSE MAY SEEM LESS DANGEROUS THAN AT SOME OTHER MOMENT.

4. ONE CAN THEN EVEN GIVE A CERTAIN CREDENCE TO AMERICAN ASSURANCES THAT THE "THIN" ROCKET WALL IS DESIGNED MORE TO MEET A FUTURE THREAT FROM CHINA THAN THE RESULT OF FEAR OF THE SOVIET UNION. AGAINST THAT COUNTRY'S MASSIVE NUCLEAR ARSENAL, THE U.S.A. CANNOT ERECT A FOOL-PROOF SHIELD - AND THAT IS WELL KNOWN THERE.

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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5. BUT THOSE IN WASHINGTON SHOULD NOT DECEIVE THEMSELVES THAT THE RUSSIAN LEADERS, DESPITE THE TOUGHER TONES IN THE MOSCOW-PEKING DIALOGUE, ARE READY FOR THIS REASON TO CAST ASIDE SUSPICIONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE SOVIET HAS ITS HAWKS, JUST AS DOES THE U.S. NOT FOR ONE INSTANT WILL THEY UNDERESTIMATE THE "AMERICAN DANGER" SIMPLY BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN AN ACUTE CONFLICT SITUATION IN REMOTEST ASIA.
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